

November 30, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSC AUTHORIZES ENHANCEMENT TO CAPTEL RELAY SERVICE

LINCOLN – Hearing and speech impaired Nebraskans will now have access to an enhanced version of the Captioned Telephone (CapTel) service effective December 1.

At its November 29 meeting, the Nebraska Public Service Commission authorized Hamilton Telecommunications of Aurora, the state's relay service provider, to offer two-line CapTel service.

Single line CapTel service was introduced to Nebraska on October 1, 2004. Two-line CapTel is similar to single-line CapTel in that the user receives live captions of everything the other party says.

Two-line CapTel users will need a second telephone line for the service and are responsible for the cost of the second line. The two-line CapTel user may receive caption service on any telephone call, incoming or outgoing, at any point in the conversation. Two-line CapTel allows callers to direct dial CapTel users instead calling through the captioning center.

According to Hamilton Telecommunications, two-line CapTel users listen to their conversation on one line while receiving text from the captioning service on the other line. Two-line CapTel also works with telephone products purchased from local telephone companies such as call waiting and automatic callback.

Hamilton Telecommunications will offer the new service at no additional cost to the state. The Nebraska Relay Service is funded through a seven-cent per month surcharge on telephone lines to provide telephone services to hearing and speech-impaired citizens.

For more information on the Nebraska Relay Service as well as single or two-line CapTel service, individuals may contact Steve Stovall at the Nebraska Public Service Commission (402-471-3101 or 800-526-0017) or the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 800-545-6244. Both Commissions have Voice/TTY services available.

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